

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Acknowledgment of Amendments***

Applicants amendment filed 01/05/2010 overcomes the following objection(s)/rejection(s):

The objections to the drawings have been withdrawn in view of Applicants amendment.

The rejection of claims 1-9 under 112 second paragraph has been withdrawn in view of Applicants amendment.

The objection to the specification has been withdrawn in view of Applicants amendment.

### ***Reasons for Allowance***

1. Claims 1-9 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention as claimed involves an image processing device comprising: process generation means for generating processes for performing image processing that handles image data and sequentially outputting process data containing instructions required to execute each of the processes; a plurality of series-connected execution means each of which executes a process related to the process data, wherein the process data contains an address of the execution means for executing the process related to the process data wherein the plurality of series-connected execution means are divided into a plurality of suites, each of the plurality of suites including a predetermined number of the series-connected execution means; a plurality of route

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selection means for selecting any one of the input side and an output side of each of the suites to supply the input process data, each of the plurality of route selection means being inserted to an input side of each of the plurality of suites, respectively; wherein each of the plurality of route selection means comprises: first address storage means for storing an address of each of the plurality of execution means that make up the immediately following suite; first address decision means for outputs a decision signal that indicates a first state if at least one of addresses stored in the first address storage means is present among the addresses of the execution means that are contained in the input process data; and first switching means for supplying, depending on the decision signal output from the first address decision means, the input process data to the input side of the immediately following one of the suites if the decision signal indicates the first state and, otherwise, to the output side of this immediately following one of the suites.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JESSICA ROBERTS whose telephone number is (571)270-1821. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00 EST Monday-Friday, Alt Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marsha D. Banks-Harold can be reached on (571) 272-7905. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Marsha D. Banks-Harold/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2621

/Jessica Roberts/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2621